

Georgia glimpses

- The outpouring of support by Georgians for those devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in past months has been great, but help is still needed,



according to American Red Cross officials. To donate, call (800) HELP-NOW or click on www.redcross.org. And, proving that hurricane relief also comes in small packages, 6-year-old Amanda Chesin of Alpharetta shows that you are never too young to help a worthy cause. Her neighborhood lemonade stand (with matching donations from family) brought in \$195, which went to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

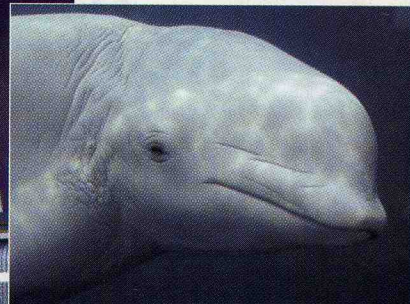
- Decatur-based *Verb*, an audio literary magazine, just made it easier to get a dose of award-winning fiction, poetry and music with its two-CD debut in September. Featuring works by poets

Thomas Lux and Marjorie Wentworth and writers Stewart Dybek, Ha Jin, Robert Olen Butler, Tom Franklin and James

Dickey, *Verb* thoughtfully delivers 2.5 hours of material you won't find anywhere else. The audiomag is available quarterly at local bookstores. For more on *Verb*, visit www.verb.org.

- Paula Deen, noted cookbook author, Food Network chef and owner of The Lady and Sons in Savannah, is featured in October's Paramount Studios release, "Elizabethtown," starring Orlando Bloom, Kirsten Dunst and Susan Sarandon. For more on the film, visit www.elizabethtown.com.

New aquarium makes a splash



Beluga whales (above) are among the newest residents at the Georgia Aquarium.

The depth of Atlanta's cultural attractions is going 8 million gallons deeper with the opening of the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest, on Nov. 23.

Bernie Marcus and company are luring people to this colossal event by handing out tidbits of information. Two of those "tidbits" are Ralph and Norton, a pair of whale sharks (the largest fish in the sea) that arrived by UPS, from Taiwan. Joining them is an assortment of other animals including

batfish, white spotted guitar fish, beluga whales and even jellies. In all, more than 100,000 animals will make their home here.

In addition to the exhibits, the aquarium will host educational programs and house a state-of-the-art animal health facility to assist in its conservation efforts. Their vision to be the world's most engaging aquarium experience is a tall order, but they are well on their way to realizing that dream.

—Glenda Rogers

Non-native species invades state

According to Georgia Wildlife Resources biologists, the invasive South American channeled apple snail and its eggs have been found in Pierce County in the ponds and streams of the Albaha River system, a tributary of the Satilla River in Southeast Georgia.

"These snails have a voracious appetite for aquatic plants, which many native species depend on for foraging and shelter," says WRD Wildlife Biologist Brett Albanese. Biologists hope that they can halt or slow the spread of the species by targeting their bright pink eggs, which are laid on trees and shrubs above the waterline,



and by removing adult snails.

Georgians who think they have found an apple snail should collect it, photograph it and provide detailed locality information to WRD Fisheries Management in Waycross at (912) 285-6094, or WRD Headquarters at (770) 918-6400. For more information about aquatic nuisance species, visit www.gofishgeorgia.com; for help in identifying these snails, see www.apple snail.net.